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Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 /080 R

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APPROVED BY EA:RSINGERSOLL
EA/K:DLRANARD
EA/TB:JBDEXTER
---------- 081114
O R 262220Z APR 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

S E C R E T STATE 086122

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TH, KS, KN
CINCPAC FOR POLAD
SUBJECT: THAI-NORTH KOREAN RELATIONS
REF: (A) STATE 83975; (B) SEOUL 2632; (C) BANGKOK 2731
1. ROK AMB HAHM CALLED ON ASST. SECRETARY INGERSOLL UNDER INSTRUCTION TO ASK USG ASSISTANCE ON FORESTALLING DEVELOPMENT OF THAI/NK RELATIONS. (BANGKOK'S 2731 WAS NOT RECEIVED UNTIL AFTER MEETING AFTERNOON OF APRIL 25.) HAHM FIRST ASKED THAT WE INDICATE TO RTG THAT IT NOT IN THAI INTEREST TO RECEIVE NK MINISTER FOR FOREIGN TRADE SCHEDULED ARRIVE BANGKOK BETWEEN APRIL 24-26. WHEN TOLD IT WAS TOO LATE FOR SUCH ACTION HAHM WENT ON TO SAY THAT ROKG CONCERNED THAT VISIT IS ONLY PRELUDE TO ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT MISSIONS. HE SAID THAI ROLE IS PIVOTAL AND THAT OTHER ASIAN

COUNTRIES WOULD FOLLOW THAI LEAD. HE REFERRED TO THAI ROLE IN KOREAN WAR AND SAID THAI MOVE TOWARD NK WOULD BE
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"TREMENDOUS BLOW" TO ROKG POSITION. HE ASKED THAT WE

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INFLUENCE RTG TO LIMIT ACTION TO ACCEPTANCE OF PRESENT
DELEGATION.

2. INGERSOLL ASSURED HAHM WE SHARE ROKG CONCERN AND WOULD
DO WHAT WE COULD. HE REMINDED HAHM THAT OUR LEVERAGE WITH
RTG IS LIMITED AND SPECULATED THAT OVER LONG RUN ROKG STOOD
TO GAIN FROM THAI MOVE WHICH BASICALLY SEEKS TO RECOGNIZE

REALITY OF TWO KOREAS. SANYA GOVT HAS ANNOUNCED POLICY OF
IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES REGARDLESS OF
IDEOLOGY AND RTG ACTION CONSONANT WITH ROKG POLICY
ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT PARK JUNE 23, 1973. HE CITED AUST-
RALIAN EXPERIENCE AS EXAMPLE IN WHICH, DESPITE STRONG
EFFORT, WE WERE NOT ABLE TO CHANGE COURSE TO WHICH WHITLAM
GOVERNMENT PUBLICLY COMMITTED.
3. HAHM RECOGNIZED LOGIC THIS VIEW BUT EMPHASIZED
INEQUITIES INVOLVED IN THAT NORTH KOREA REFUSED ALLOW HER
FRIENDS MAKE ANY GESTURES AT ALL IN DIRECTION OF SOUTH
KOREA. BOTH AGREED THAT CASE SHOULD BE MADE TO RTG IN
POSITIVE RATHER THAN NEGATIVE TERMS, I.E., WE UNDERSTAND
THAI MOTIVATIONS, AND BELIEVE RTG CAN PLAY USEFUL ROLE
IN AIDING CAUSE OF STABILITY ON KOREAN PENINSULA. RTG
WOULD BE URGED TO SHOW RESTRAINT IN FURTHER ACTION UNTIL
NK CAMP MAKES MOVE TOWARD ROK TO RECIPROCATE RECENT ACTIONS
TO RECOGNIZE NK BY FRIENDS OF ROKG. INGERSOLL ALSO
SUGGESTED THAT ROKG SHOULD MAKE THIS POINT DIRECTLY TO RTG,
POSSIBLY SENDING SPECIAL ENVOY TO BANGKOK. HE PROMISED
WE WOULD CONVEY OUR VIEWS TO BANGKOK.

4. WE HAVE SINCE HAD CHANCE TO REVIEW REFTEL (C). WE
APPRECIATE EMBASSY VIEWS AND ASSESSMENT OF THAI MOTIVATIONS
AND OBJECTIVES. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT APPROACH TO RTG
WHILE NORTH KOREANS STILL IN BANGKOK ALONG FOLLOWING LINES
COULD BE USEFUL, AND HOPEFULLY WOULD NOT BE RESENTED BY
THAIS.

5. WE UNDERSTAND AND ARE SYMPATHETIC TO RTG EFFORTS TO
IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES WILLING TO BE
FRIENDS WITH THAILAND, INCLUDING NORTH KOREA. WE
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BELIEVE EVEN-HANDED TREATMENT OF TWO KOREAN PARTIES BY
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS ESSENTIAL TO RESOLUTION OF
KOREAN ISSUES AND STABILITY OF KOREAN PENINSULA. DESPITE
ROKG ACCEPTANCE OF THIS NECESSITY, MOVEMENT UP TO NOW HAS
BEEN TOWARD RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA WITH NO CORRESPOND-
ING RECIPROCITY BY ALLIES OF NK. RTG COULD MAKE MAJOR
CONTRIBUTION TO CONCEPT OF EQUAL TREATMENT BY INFORMING
NORTH KOREANS THAT WHILE THAILAND IS PREPARED TO MOVE

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TOWARD EXPANDING RELATIONS WITH NORTH, THIS CAN BEST OCCUR IN PARALLEL WITH COMPARABLE MOTION BY FRIENDS OF NORTH TOWARD SOUTH KOREA. MOREOVER, THAT TIME HAS COME FOR NORTH TO ALLOW HER FRIENDS TO MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION.

6. UNLESS EMBASSY PERCEIVES SERIOUS OBJECTIONS TO SUCH REPRESENTATIONS, EMBASSY SHOULD CONVEY ABOVE TO THAIS.

7. FOR SEOUL: RECOMMEND YOU URGE FONMIN TO CALL IN THAI AMBASSADOR AND MAKE SIMILAR REPRESENTATION. KISSINGER

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